1

2   1.   An integrated computerized system for preparing for the accomplishment of a

3   task, said system comprising:

4   a training module capable of providing interactive training to a user

5   regarding how to perform said task;

6   an estimating module capable of estimating the cost of materials

7   required for said task; and

8   a purchasing module capable of providing means for purchasing said

9   materials.

10

11   2.   The system of claim 1, wherein said training comprises on-line multimedia

12   exercises.

13

14   3.   The system of claim 1, wherein said user may input information relating to said

15   task, said information to be used in said estimating module.

16

17   4.   The system of claim 1, wherein said training module allows said user to compile

18   and edit a task specific database of materials and supplies required to perform said

19   task.

20

21   5.   The system of claim 4, wherein said task specific database is transferred to said

22   estimating and said purchasing modules.

23

24   6.   The system of claim 1, wherein said estimating module allows said user to

25   estimate the cost of obtaining said materials and said supplies required to perform

26   said task.

7. The system of claim 6, wherein said estimating module allows said user to estimate the cost of professional services to accomplish said task.

8. The system of claim 7, wherein said user may compare said cost of professional services to said cost of obtaining said material and said supplies to evaluate whether any savings incurred by performing said task are justified.

9. The system of claim 1, wherein said purchasing module comprises an on-line link to at least one retailer who can provide said materials.

10. The system of claim 1, wherein said user may select geographic vendors.

11. The system of claim 1, wherein said user may purchase said materials online.

12. The system of claim 1, wherein said purchasing module allows a user to contact a professional to perform said task.

13. The system of claim 1, wherein said system is implemented as an integrated Internet site.

14.   A method of preparing for the accomplishment of a task, said method comprising the steps of:

        generating user input on a computer, said user input including information pertaining to said task;

        training a user regarding how to perform said task, said training utilizing said user input;

        estimating the cost of materials required for said task; and

        purchasing said materials.

15.   The method of claim 14, wherein said step of training is interactive.

16.   The method of claim 14, wherein said method comprises on-line multimedia exercises.

17.   The method of claim 14, wherein said step of training utilizes a training module.

18.   The method of claim 17, wherein said training module allows said user to compile and edit a task specific database of materials and supplies required to perform said task, said task specific database is updated and utilized in said step of estimating and said step of purchasing.

19.   The method of claim 18, wherein said step of estimating utilizes an estimating module.

20.   The system of claim 19, wherein said task specific database is transferred to said estimating module.

21.   The method of claim 19, wherein said estimating module allows said user to estimate the cost of obtaining said materials and said supplies required to perform said task.

22.   The method of claim 21, wherein said estimating module allows said user to estimate the cost of professional services to accomplish said task.

23.   The method of claim 22, wherein said user may compare said cost of professional services to said cost of obtaining said material and said supplies to evaluate whether any savings incurred by performing said task are justified.

24.   The method of claim 14, wherein said step of purchasing utilizes a purchasing module allowing means for purchasing said materials needed for said task.

25.   The method of claim 24, wherein said purchasing module comprises an on-line link to at least one retailer who can provide said materials.

26.   The system of claim 25, wherein said user may select geographic retailers.

27.   The system of claim 26, wherein said means for purchasing allows a user to purchase said materials online.

28.   The system of claim 14, wherein said purchasing module allows a user to contact a professional to perform said task.

29. The method of claim 14, wherein said method is implemented as an integrated, interactive Internet site.

30. A computer-readable memory for prepare for the accomplishment of a task, said computer-readable memory configured so that it can be used to direct a computer:

to gather and store information pertaining to at least one task;

to provide a training module designed to train a user regarding how to perform said task;

to provide an estimating module designed to estimate the cost of materials required for said task;

to provide a purchasing module designed to facilitate the purchasing said materials;

to access and retrieve said information pertaining to said at least one task; and

to present said information pertaining to said at least one task to a graphical user interface.

31.   A computer-readable data transmission signal containing a data structure, said computer-readable data transmission signal comprising:

a first portion identifying a task-specific training module that a client is requesting from a server, wherein said client may receive interactive training and education regarding a task;

a second portion identifying an estimating module, wherein said client may compile information relating to a cost associated with said task; and

a third portion identifying a purchasing module, wherein said client may purchase any needed materials to complete said task;

said training module, said estimating module, and said purchasing module each allowing communication between said client and said server.

32.   The computer-readable data transmission signal of claim 31, wherein said signal propagates across a network.

33.   The computer-readable data transmission signal of claim 32, wherein said network is a global information network.